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The JOT Journal: Towards a Rising Generation

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Over the years, the theory and practice of Software and Language Engineering have been expanded and refined. In the meanwhile, the scientific publishing is undergoing profound changes due to contrasting forces involving funders policies, universities, publishers, and last but not least new technological possibilities. The impact of such changes are pervasive and apply - *mutatis mutandis* - to the JOT Journal that needed to adapt quickly in terms of cultural content and publishing paradigm.

Therefore, it is with our great pleasure (and with a clearer sense of responsibility) that we write this first editorial of the rising generation of the JOT Journal! We start 2019 with a new team of editors in chief, and many new exciting objectives for shaping up a high-quality, peer-reviewed, free, open-access and community-driven journal on software and language engineering. It is with honour that we work towards the establishment of an ambitious journal that, on one side, best fits the evolution and needs of our community and, on the other hand, intends to leverage the role of the community in transforming the way science should be communicated. Thus, we warmly thank the Steering Committee members for their strong confidence and their open-minded vision about the journal.

The JOT Journal is a peer-reviewed journal created by AITO in 2002, and originally dedicated to high-quality research on object-oriented software development. It has been a platinum open access journal (also known as diamond or universal open access) since its creation, a farsighted and visional project that proved to be still very current and valid. An openly accessible journal with *i*) no fees for readers, and *ii*) no article processing charges or publication fees for authors. Research outputs published by the JOT Journal are distributed online, free of cost, and with the addition of a Creative Commons license (CC BY). The journal applies the open access model to all forms of published research outputs, including peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed articles (i.e., the content of the newsletter, editorials, and invited historical briefings). The JOT Journal is currently listed/indexed by DBLP, Google Scholar, Microsoft Academic Search, SCIRUS, Scientific Commons, DOAJ, Index of IS Journals, and

SCOPUS. JOT is registered under ISSN 1660-1769, and the content is fully available from <http://www.jot.fm>.

Leveraging the traditional openness of the journal, we recently worked in various directions. In particular, we **broaden the scope of the journal** to all topics of software and language engineering, we **redefined the publication scheme** to restrict the time between the submission and the publication to the mere reviewing process, we **established a new call for special themes** open to both conference proceedings and specific sub-topics to be consistently explore within a special issue of the journal, we **elaborated a new software section** to publish innovative and original software, and, finally, we **turned the existing blog to a periodic newsletter** opens to the contributions from all members of the community and that contributes to spreading any kind of technical, scientific and meta information from the community, to the community.

Topics of interest. The JOT Journal is now defined as a journal dedicated to the timely publication of previously unpublished research *articles, surveys, tutorials, roadmaps, and technical notes* on all aspects of *software and language engineering*. Hence, the journal is no longer limited to its traditional topics related to the object-oriented technologies, but extend its scope to any topics related to software development, including model-driven engineering, language engineering, model and program transformation and analysis, software variability, software validation & verification, etc.

Publication scheme. We recently refactored the existing publication scheme of the JOT Journal to experiment *a continuous publication scheme*, i.e., regular papers are added into a dynamic and annual issue as soon as they are accepted. Hence, the meta-data (DOI, volume and issue) are associated with the article as soon as it is accepted and notified to the authors in the acceptance letter. Thus the time in between the submission and the publication is only restricted to the reviewing process. Conference proceedings and special themes are addressed in specific additional journal issues according to the important dates defined within the specific call for papers.

Special themes. The JOT Journal welcomes special themes on topics of interest for its audience prepared by volunteer guest editors. The contents of a special theme may be solicited directly from the author community or compiled from articles presented at a specified conference. For any information, please contact the Special Theme Editor, Prof. Richard Paige.

Software section. The JOT Journal solicits high-quality submissions describing commercial tools, research prototypes, and industrial systems or extensions of them. The technical merits, novelty, relevance, and level of maturity of submitted tools will be assessed through peer review under the supervision of the Software Section Editors, Prof. Dimitris Kolovos and Dr. Antonio Garcia-Dominguez.

Newsletter. The JOT Journal used to have a blog opens to the community, but now competes with well-known blogs such as Medium and alike. To avoid such as duplication of effort, we decided to turn the existing blog to a periodic newsletter filled by the community, for the community. Hence, any public content such as blog posts, screencasts, or webinars that are relevant to the software and language engineering community can be referenced by anyone through a dedicated form available

from the JOT website. The newsletter editor, Prof. Olivier Barais, will collect, curate, and eventually send all the referenced materials to the community through a periodic newsletter. You may contribute and subscribe to the newsletter at <http://www.jot.fm/newsletter>.

Because the complexity and intricacy of the problems and their potential solutions in this domain, we are also currently exploring several possibilities: **additional materials** can be associated to accepted papers (e.g., software and data), and a dedicated **online submission and review system** will be deployed in order to support authors, reviewers, and editors, and guarantee to the community the control of the system and the underlying data. Future challenges also include the implementation of a mechanism to **record citations**, such as we can provide them per paper as well as **computing the Impact Factor** of the journal.

To reflect these recent innovations, we evolved the journal masthead, including new (deputy) editors in chief, and dedicated editors for the special themes, the software section, and the newsletter. We are also in the process of strengthening the editorial board to reflect the new scope of the journal better. We warmly thank all the newcomers for accepting to be part of this new adventure, and for their efforts to make this rising generation of the journal a great success for the community.

The team of The JOT Journal is now eager to welcome your next research contributions on software and language engineering. Waiting for the new submission system, you might submit by sending your manuscript to editor@jot.fm. At least three reviewers will evaluate all submitted manuscripts, and the editor in chief (or the guest editor for a special issue about a specific theme or conference proceedings) will eventually take the final decision to accept, ask minor and/or minor revisions, or reject the paper for publication in the journal. The journal is also open to special theme proposals (cf. the call on the journal website), as well as any information you would like to share to the community through the newsletter.

The JOT Journal intends to promote innovative ideas and help influence the transformation of the way science is communicated. It aims at becoming a forum where authors can publish their high quality research products without delays through our new continuous publication scheme. At the light of these arguments, consider submitting your next research to the JOT Journal: *from the community to the community!*

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